



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
INDEPENDENCE METH USER SENTENCED
FOR POSSESSING FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm.

David P. Birk, 27, of Independence, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to three years and one month in federal prison without parole.

On June 2, 2004, **Birk** pleaded guilty being an unlawful user of methamphetamine while also in possession of a Raven Arms .25-caliber semi-automatic pistol. He admitted that he possessed the firearm on March 2, 2004. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any user or addict of a controlled substance to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.

Birk was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on April 6, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow